



**Israel, 2023, 10 days, November 12-21**

**Led by Brother Barry Coffey, \$4495\* from East Coast**

**Day one, Sunday, November 12:** gather in a to-be-determined East Coast city for the non-stop flight to Israel. Or make your own way to Israel from your preferred airport. Our tour operator Ron Cansler will be happy to assist your planning: ron.cansler@yahoo.com, 417-499-8685. \*\$4495 price based on estimated airfare; final price (hopefully lower) available end of year.

**Day two, Monday, November 13:** morning arrival at Ben Gurion international airport, just outside Tel Aviv. After boarding the deluxe coach, head up the coast to **Caesarea Maritime**, artificial harbor and city built by Herod the Great. A restored Roman theater, where proof of the historical existence of Pontius Pilate was found, is a highlight, along with a Crusader fortress and an aqueduct built by Herod the Great. Continue north to **Mt Carmel** for a breathtaking view of the Jezreel valley from the spot where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. After lunch on own, drive to Tiberias, the capital city in Galilee now as in Jesus' day, right on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Full breakfast and dinner buffets are included in all hotels. All tipping throughout the trip is included.

**Day three, Tuesday, November 14:** drive from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee for a sail on the **Sea of Galilee** in an enlarged version of the boats used by Jesus and his fishermen disciples--and see an actual boat from the time of Jesus as archaeologists raised it from the lake. Re-experience the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount at the **Mt of Beatitudes** chapel. At **Capernaum**, where Jesus based his 18-month Galilean ministry, stand within the foundations of

the synagogue where he preached and healed and see the house of Peter's family where He stayed. At **Tabgha**, an ancient mosaic remembers the Miracle of Loaves and Fishes and another spot recalls where the risen Jesus fed his disciples after a miraculous catch and gave Peter his commission to "feed my sheep." **Magdala** is an exciting new excavation, the hometown of Mary the Magdalene, and a fascinating glimpse into life on the seashore villages of Jesus' followers. While in Galilee, those who wish will have the opportunity for baptism in the **Jordan River**.

**Day four, Wednesday, November 15:** explore northern Galilee at **Caesarea Philippi**, center of Roman might and pagan worship in Jesus' time, where He challenged his disciples then and now, "Who do men--and do you--say that I am?" Continue to the northernmost city of biblical Israel, **Dan**, and see the actual excavated gates that Abraham entered as he first journeyed through the Promised Land as well as a "high place" here Jereboam erected the golden bulls that led Israel into pagan worship. Explore the Dan Nature preserve on an easy hike for streams, waterfalls, forest. Weather and time permitting, experience an optional and thrilling 4-wheel Jeep ride through the hills and valleys, along streams and path of the **Golan Heights**.

**Day five, Thursday, November 16:** begin heading south, first stopping at **Bet Shean**, where the bodies of King Saul and his sons were hung by the Philistines. A Decapolis city in Jesus' day, Bet Shean was both destroyed and saved by a massive earthquake--as archaeologists have now done a fantastic job restoring the previously-

hidden ruins at one of the best Greco-Roman sites in the world. The date palm oasis of **En Gedi** is where David spared King Saul. Crossing the lunar landscape of the Judean wilderness, come to **Qumran** on the shores of the **Dead Sea**, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered (you will actually see scroll discoveries at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. You spend two nights at a deluxe Dead Sea spa hotel. Do bring a swimming suit so you can experience a unique “float” in the saltiest water in the world at the lowest spot in the world. The hotel also has pools with both fresh and Dead Sea water; spa treatments are available on your own arrangements.

**Day six, Friday, November 17:** lazy morning, then to **Masada**, Dead Sea palace/fortress built by Herod the Great to enjoy winter at the Dead Sea and also as a bulwark against invasion by Cleopatra, last ruling Egyptian Pharaoh (the actual last hereditary Pharaoh was Cleopatra’s son by Julius Caesar, though he never actually ruled). After the Romans destroyed the Jerusalem Temple in 70 AD/CE, zealous Jews captured Masada and based their final resistance there, defying the might of Rome from the mountaintop fortress until 73AD/CE, ending their own lives in valor rather than submitting to slavery by the pagans. Back to the luxury Dead Sea spa hotel for an afternoon and evening of relaxation.

**Day seven, Saturday, November 18:** on the way “Up to Jerusalem” drive through the **Shepherds’ Fields** outside Bethlehem where the shepherds were tending their flocks by night till the glory of the Lord shone round about them—perhaps stop to sing a Christmas hymn. Stop outside Jerusalem at the **Israel Museum** to study a huge outdoor, very detailed model of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. And then from a spacious promenade get your first gaze over Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem built entirely out of gleaming white limestone. Walk from the promenade down the slope of Mt of Olives, following the Palm Sunday Path Jesus rode on the donkey, hosannas echoing from those who claimed to be his followers. At the bottom of the path is **The Garden of Gethsemane** with olives trees still flourishing from roots that were alive when Jesus entered the Garden to pray as he faced and accepted the challenge of the Cross. After a time of study and, on to the deluxe hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day eight, Sunday, November 19:** descend into the recently-excavated original “**City of David**”

just outside the current city walls, where David established his dwelling after capturing Jerusalem via the “water shaft” (II Samuel 5). Those who wish can wade Hezekiah’s Tunnel, dug from both ends to bring water into the city in time of siege by Sennacherib (or take the dry path) to the **Pool of Siloam** where Jesus healed a blind man. Go to the actual **House of Caiphas the High Priest** where Jesus was dragged up the still visible stone steps to be held for trial—where Peter denied him thrice before he cock crew. Outside the city visit **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust Museum, a memory of the evil men and the faith of those who resist and triumph.

**Day nine, Monday November 20:** on this special day in the Holy City of Jerusalem, stand on the very same **Southern Stairs of the Temple** where Jesus taught before His Passion. Pray at the **Western (Wailing) Wall**, leaving scrolls of your prayers in the giant stones remaining from the Temple, from where Jewish tradition says prayers go most directly to heaven. Worship in the special setting that recalls the **Upper Room**, see the memorial known as **David’s Tomb**. Pray for the healing of loved ones at the **Pools of Bethesda**, then marvel at the acoustics as you sing in the **Crusader Church of St. Anne**. Stand on the pavement where Jesus was tormented by the soldiers in the **Judgment Hall of Pilate**. Walk the twisting, narrow streets of the Old City, still very like they were on the day when Jesus carried His cross on the **Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow)**. Go just outside Jerusalem, just past the Damascus Gate, to the hillside where nature has gouged out caves that remind many of a skull’s nose and eye sockets, **Calvary, Golgotha**, place of the Skull . . . and then end your experience of Jerusalem and The Holy Land with a service of Holy Communion, set in a lovely private garden where there is a Tomb that is gloriously empty. After a special “farewell banquet” and time to freshen up in your hotel, head to the airport to check in for the flight home, arriving back in the U.S. on **Day 10, Tuesday, November 21**.

**Israel Weather in November is great**, mostly-sunny weather with daytime highs in 70s.

To reserve your space on the tour, send \$100 per person deposit to

Escorted Travel—Coffey  
2314 Rebekah St  
Carthage MO 64836

**Deposit completely refundable till end of 2022**